

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:IMSILINS:AP
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S/S:A. OTTO

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TAGS: CVIS, SHUM, CSCE, UR

SUBJECT:RABBI MILLER/ARMITAGE MEETING JUNE 9: SHCHARANSKIY,
JEWISH EMIGRATION

1. SUMMARY: RABBI ISRAEL MILLER, FORMER HEAD OF CONFERENCE
OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS,
ASKED THAT US GOVERNMENT "QUIETLY" DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE
TO AID ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY. HE ALSO RAISED PROBLEM
POSED FOR JEWISH COMMUNITY AND ISRAEL BY SOVIET JEWS WHO
DECIDED NOT TO REMAIN IN ISRAEL AND ARE IN ROME AWAITING
ASSISTANCE FOR RESETTLEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.
END SUMMARY

2. RABBI MILLER SAID JEWISH COMMUNITY IS "TERRIBLY
CONCERNED" ABOUT CHANGE IN SOVIET LINE TOWARD SHCHARANSKIY.
SHCHARANSKIY'S SITUATION POSES DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR
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JEWISH COMMUNITY, WHICH HAS BEEN TRYING TO SEPARATE
JEWISH PROBLEM FROM DISSENT IN USSR. SHCHARANSKIY,
HOWEVER, BOTH ASSOCIATED HIMSELF WITH CSCE MONITORING
GROUP AND WANTS TO EMIGRATE. (HIS WIFE IS ALREADY IN
ISRAEL.) SOVIET ALLEGATIONS THAT SHCHARANSKIY IS
CONNECTED WITH CIA ARE ALSO BOTHERSOME, AND RABBI MILLER
WONDERED WHETHER THE SOVIETS HAD CHOSEN THIS MEANS TO SEND

A MESSAGE TO THE US GOVERNMENT ABOUT SUCH THINGS AS OUR SUPPORT OF SAKHAROV AND SPEAKING OUT ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THIS

ALSO SEEMED TO BE A WAY OF ATTACKING ACTIVIST SOVIET JEWS. RABBI MILLER WAS ALSO CONCERNED BY ANOTHER TACTIC, THE PLACING OF "PARASITE" CHARGES AGAINST IOSIF BEGUN, A SOVIET JEW WHO HAD QUIT HIS JOB IN PREPARATION FOR EMIGRATION. DESPITE THESE TACTICS, RABBI MILLER SAID, EXIT VISA REQUESTS ARE INCREASING.

2. ARMITAGE SAID THAT WE ARE EQUALLY CONCERNED ABOUT SHCHARANSKIY AND THAT SECRETARY VANCE HAS TAKEN THE MATTER UP WITH HIGH SOVIET OFFICIALS. WE HAVE TOLD THE SOVIETS WE ARE WATCHING THE MATTER CAREFULLY. IN ADDITION, IN HIS RECENT TESTIMONY BEFORE THE CSCE COMMISSION, SECRETARY VANCE HAD SPECIFICALLY REBUTTED THE SOVIET CHARGE THAT SHCHARANSKIY HAS AN AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE CONNECTION. ARMITAGE ASSURED RABBI MILLER THAT SHCHARANSKIY'S SITUATION WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF OUR CONTINUED ATTENTION. HE ADDED THAT WE ARE NOT COMPLETELY CERTAIN THAT CHARGES HAVE IN FACT FORMALLY BEEN PLACED AGAINST SHCHARANSKIY. IF THEY HAVE NOT, IT WILL BE EASIER TO INFLUENCE THE OUTCOME OF THE CASE. SO FAR, IT APPEARS THAT ABOUT NINE PERSONS IN VARIOUS CITIES ARE IN DETENTION AND MIGHT BE CHARGED.

3. ARMITAGE SAID THAT IT APPEARS TO HIM THAT THE SOVIETS ARE "PICKING UP HOSTAGES" IN PREPARATION FOR THE BELGRADE MEETING. THAT IS, THEY MAY TRY TO MAKE THE POINT
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THAT IF BELGRADE ASSUMES THE CHARACTER OF A CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE USSR, THEN THE SOVIETS HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BY PROCEEDING AGAINST THOSE CHARGED. IF NOT, THEY MAY GIVE HINTS THAT THE CASES WILL BE RESOLVED IN SOME WAY.

4. ARMITAGE STRESSED THAT NOTHING IN WHAT HE HAD SAID WAS INTENDED TO MEAN THAT THERE SHOULD NOT BE PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN ON SHCHARANSKIY'S BEHALF. RABBI MILLER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS, AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OBVIOUSLY HAD TO OPERATE DIFFERENTLY. THERE WAS TO BE A MEETING OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY ON JUNE 13, AT WHICH THE SHCHARANSKIY CASE WOULD BE DISCUSSED. IT HAD BEEN SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER BE ASKED TO SPEAK OUT ON SHCHARANSKIY'S BEHALF, BUT RABBI MILLER SAID HE THOUGHT THE CONSENSUS WAS THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THAT WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

5. RABBI MILLER ALSO BRIEFLY RAISED THE QUESTION OF

SOVIET JEWS WHO EMIGRATED TO ISRAEL BUT DECIDED TO LEAVE,
AND ARE NOW IN ROME ASKING FOR HELP IN SETTLING IN THE
UNITED STATES. HE SAID THAT MANY PEOPLE, INCLUDING
MEMBERS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY, ARE TRYING TO TAKE

ADVANTAGE OF THIS ISSUE, AND THAT THERE WOULD BE PRESSURE
ON CONGRESS TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO HELP THEM. IN ADDITION,
WE WOULD BE HEARING CLAIMS THAT THESE JEWS ARE BEING
MISTREATED. IT IS RABBI MILLER'S VIEW THAT THESE
JEWS SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS REFUGEES, AND THAT
THEY CAN'T EXPECT THE SAME KIND OF HELP NOW THAT THEY
ORIGINALLY RECEIVED WHEN THEY EMIGRATED TO ISRAEL.
RABBI MILLER SAID THAT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY WOULD
CONTINUE TO ASSIST THE MOST DIFFICULT CASES, SUCH AS
THOSE WITH MEDICAL PROBLEMS, BUT THAT BASICALLY THE
JEWISH COMMUNITY CANNOT HELP JEWS LEAVING ISRAEL --
"IT GOES AGAINST ALL THAT WE STAND FOR." ARMITAGE
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REPLIED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE PERSONS IN QUESTION WERE
NOT RPT NOT BEING TREATED AS REFUGEES BY THE US. VANCE

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